THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

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PRESS RELEASE

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MUSEUM SELECTS ARTISTS FOR INVITATIONAL EXHIBITION

Fifteen Northeast Ohio artists have been invited by The Cleveland Museum of Art to show selections of their newest work in an exhibition on view at the Museum from February 27 through April 21, 1991. **The Invitational: Artists of Northeast Ohio** takes the place of the Museum's annual juried May Show this year.

Last summer Museum director Evan Turner announced that in 1991 the Museum would organize an invitational exhibition as a variant on the May Show, which typically draws between 2,000 and 2,500 entries, from which jurors choose one or two works by 150 to 200 artists for exhibition. According to Dr. Turner, area artists have frequently expressed interest in a more select invitational exhibition that would give a smaller number of artists an opportunity to show a larger, broader range of their work. This year, which marks the Museum's 75th anniversary, seemed an ideal time to try another approach to the Museum's traditional enthusiastic support of the work of area artists.

Tom Hinson, the Museum's curator of contemporary art and coordinator of the May Show, began the selection process for **The Invitational** by asking artists working in the thirteen-county area of Ohio's Western Reserve to send him slides of their latest work. After viewing the slides, he visited the studios of more than eighty artists. From these he selected fifteen who will exhibit from five to thirteen of their recent works--for the most part works never before shown in Cleveland. "The region has an exceptionally large and vital visual arts community," says Hinson. "I saw a remarkable range of work

representing a variety of media, style, technique, and subject matter. It was a challenge to narrow the show down to one consisting of only fifteen artists."

Four painters were chosen: Kenneth Dingwall, chairman of the painting department at the Cleveland Institute of Art, a resident of Cleveland Heights; Ken Nevadomi of Cleveland, associate professor of art at Cleveland State University; Patricia Zinsmeister Parker of North Canton, who currently teaches at the University of Akron School of Art; and John Pearson, Young-Hunter Professor of Studio Art at Oberlin College. Two artists will show photographs: Masumi Hayashi, of Cleveland, associate professor of art at Cleveland State University, and Clevelander Michael Loderstedt, who currently teaches photography at the University of Akron.

The other artists work in various media. Akron resident Christina DePaul, associate professor at the University of Akron School of Art, creates non-functional works of art in metal. Don Harvey of Cleveland, professor of art at the University of Akron School of Art, produces multi-media constructions. Curlee Holton of Cleveland Heights is a printmaker--currently teaching printmaking at Kent State University--and an art educator who coordinates artist-in-residence programs for area public schools. Kirk Mangus, who works in ceramics, resides in Kent, where he is an assistant professor in the School of Art at Kent State University. Paul O'Keeffe of Kent, also assistant professor at Kent State's School of Art, will show steel sculptures. Annie Peters, who lives in Middlefield, works with wood and basketmaking techniques to create non-functional pieces of furniture. La Wilson of Hudson is known for her constructed assemblages of familiar objects.

Carl Floyd of Madison, chairman of the sculpture department at the Cleveland Institute of Art, who produces large-scale works for specific sites, will create a landscape-like installation for the Museum's gallery 240. Richard L. Myers, professor of art and cinematography at Kent State University, is an award-winning filmmaker whose films have been shown at major film festivals in this country; nine of his films will be screened at the Museum during March and April during **The Invitational**.

Most of the artists in **The Invitational** have exhibited in earlier May Shows, and many have won awards for their works. Unlike the May Show, which is open to artists who were born in Northeast Ohio but have moved away, **The Invitational** focuses on artists who have chosen to live and work in the Western Reserve.

Because of the ambitious anniversary schedule of international loan exhibitions, there will be no exhibition of works by Northeast Ohio artists in 1992, but in 1993 the familiar juried May Show format will return.

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